

DEMENTIA GRIPS EX-TIGERS GREAT FREEHAN,  
BUT HIS WIFE’S LOVE KEEPS HIM ...

# SAFE AT HOME

Bill Freehan lies on a hospital bed in the middle of the room. ■ The World Series is on the TV. ■ “Boston is playing,” Pat Freehan tells Bill, her husband. ■ But she doesn’t know whether he can fully understand her.

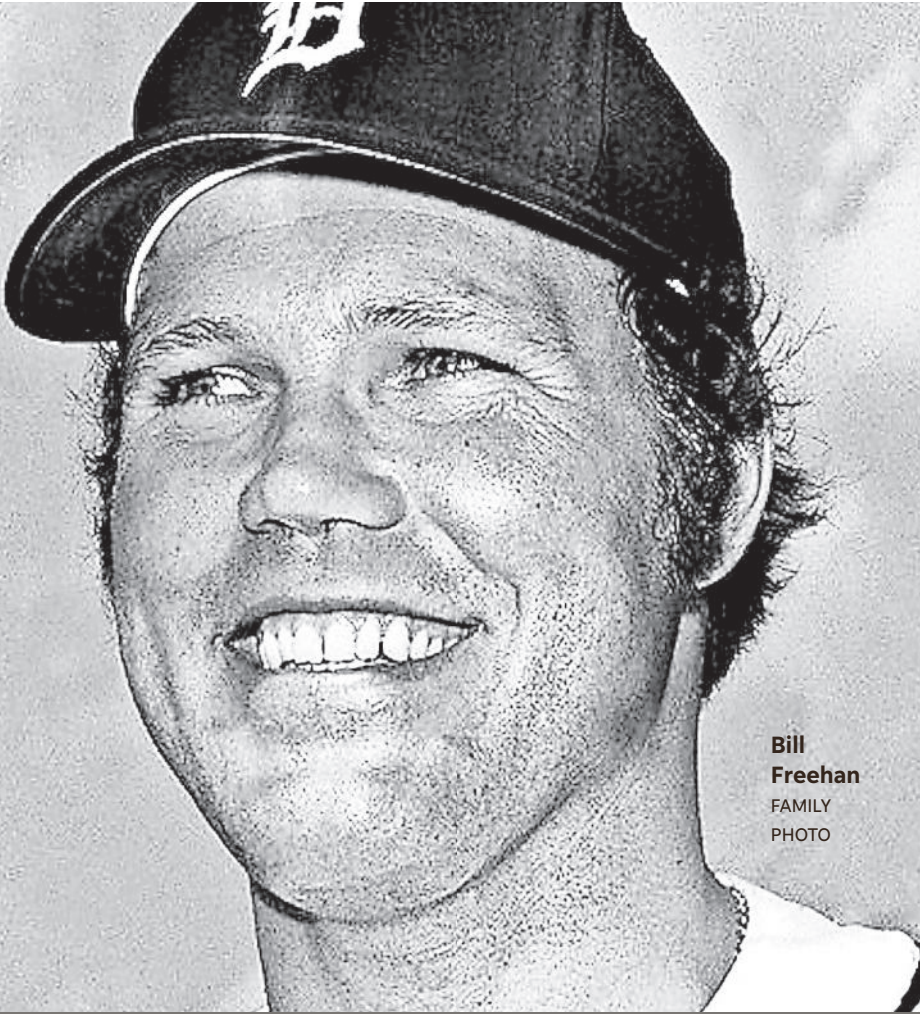
Freehan, one of the greatest Detroit Tigers ever, cannot walk, cannot speak and cannot eat on his own. “Is he aware?” Pat asks. “I don’t know. Those are the things you don’t know.” She pauses. “But his World Series trophy is on the mantel,” she says. Fifty years after helping the Tigers win the 1968 World Series, Bill Freehan suffers from dementia and is un-



**Jeff Seidel**  
Columnist  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

der the care of Hospice of Michigan at his home in northern Michigan. Pat Freehan, Bill’s wife of 55 years, is his primary caregiver. If Bill Freehan was an example of how to play the game the right way, how to live life with character, then his wife is teaching us something even more important. It is a beautiful lesson in sacrifice, love and devotion.

See SEIDEL, Page 6A



**Bill Freehan**  
FAMILY PHOTO



THE BLITZ, 1D

## No Lewerke? No problem for Spartans!

Rocky Lombardi made his first start at QB and led MSU to a bounce-back win over Purdue.



ENTERTAINMENT, 1F

## Civil rights icon visits Dearborn

Ruby Bridges will share her inspiring story today.

### Inside today’s Free Press

- Obituaries .....16-17A, 24-26A
- Editorial .....21-23A
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### Weather

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Cloudy, a shower. Forecast, 2A

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## DISORDERLY CONDUCT: RESERVE OFFICERS A FREE PRESS INVESTIGATION

# THEY LOOK LIKE COPS

3,000 civilian officers operate with no state oversight

# BUT THEY ARE NOT

Gina Kaufman and Jim Schaefer Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

They have guns, wear badges and patrol Michigan’s streets. ■ They’re even in uniform. But they’re not real cops. ■ Across Michigan, police departments have enlisted civilians to work alongside licensed officers to patrol communities and even assist real cops with arrests. But unlike the regular officers licensed by the state, these armed civilians are unregulated.

A Detroit Free Press investigation found there are no state-established training requirements for reserve officers, as they are commonly known; no standards for screening their qualifications, and no process for monitoring their conduct. The state agency responsible for police licensing and training is not regulating reserve officers — despite gaining au-

thority last year to do just that — and has no idea how many such unlicensed volunteers there are statewide. This lack of oversight continues despite numerous incidents of questionable — even illegal — conduct by reserve officers in recent years.

See COPS, Page 12A

# At least 11 dead in synagogue shooting

Police arrest suspect in ‘horrific’ Pittsburgh attack

Rick Jervis, Sean Rossman  
and Candy Woodall  
USA TODAY

A gunman opened fire during a baby-naming ceremony Saturday at a Pittsburgh synagogue, killing at least 11 people and wounding six others, including four police officers who responded to the scene, authorities said. Police identified Robert Bowers, 46, as the suspect in Saturday’s “horrific” mass shooting. Police arrested Bowers after the rampage, according to The Associated Press. Three of the wounded officers were shot, according to the Pittsburgh Public Safety Department.

See SYNAGOGUE, Page 11A

■ Mitch Albom: Why is there such hatred for Jews in America? In A Better Michigan, 21A

# Today’s marijuana too potent for recreational use?

Kathleen Gray Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Working from a list of Detroit voters recently, Wynona Moss had a simple question for the person she was talking to on her cell phone: “Did you know that today’s drug is much more potent than in the ’80s?” “The THC level in highly potent marijuana edibles is not regulated,” said the 45-year-old Warren resident, reading from a script provided by Healthy and Productive Michigan, the political action committee formed to oppose the ballot proposal that would legalize marijuana for adult recreational use in Michigan.

See MARIJUANA, Page 7A

Happy Halloween!

Prices and items are effective at your local Kroger store through Tuesday, October 30, 2018.

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Lay's Family Size Potato Chips  
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ea

WITH CARD

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# Disorderly Conduct A Free Press investigation



Robert Bates, a former Oklahoma volunteer sheriff's deputy who said he mistook his handgun for his stun gun when he fatally shot an unarmed suspect in 2015, is escorted from the courtroom following his sentencing in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 31, 2016. Bates, who was convicted of second-degree manslaughter, was sentenced to four years. SUE OGROCKI/AP

Continued from Page 1A

The Free Press found, among other problems, a convicted felon who could not legally carry a gun actually patrolled as an armed reserve police officer in Highland Park, the former leader of a hate group volunteered as a reserve with western Michigan police agencies, and a Flint reserve officer was convicted after running a vigilante force that once illegally detained teens, holding them at gunpoint.

The Free Press investigation also found:  
■ There are about 3,000 unlicensed civilians supplementing the ranks of law enforcement agencies across Michigan, based on information compiled by the newspaper through Freedom of Information Act requests filed last year. Most are considered reserves or auxiliary officers, but the newspaper also identified other unlicensed civilians, such as members of sheriffs' posses and mounted and marine units. It is believed to be the first such accounting of this group of officers.

■ Michigan has fallen behind other states that have already implemented standards for reserve officers. The responsibility to set training requirements in Michigan falls to MCOLES, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards — but the agency has no immediate plans to take on such a task, despite gaining the authority to do so nearly two years ago.

■ Responsibilities of these civilians, who are mostly unpaid volunteers, vary widely — from serving as the partners of licensed cops on patrol to riding horses in parades in units that are, generally, ceremonial.

Many reserve officers serve the public well, helping out with things like traffic control, crowd security and even on patrol with regular cops. And despite the lack of state-wide requirements, it is common for police departments in Michigan to require reserve officers go through some kind of training, but typically it is not up to the level of a licensed officer. Critics say not having state oversight and rules that govern training is problematic and puts reserve officers and citizens at risk.

"You have a person carrying a gun who can take someone's life in the right circumstances, someone who has a badge and authority, who can take away their personal freedoms against the Constitution," said David Harvey, former executive director of MCOLES, who successfully lobbied the Legislature before his retirement to grant MCOLES the authority to set standards for reserves.

"That's a lot of power, just as much as a doctor has when they have a scalpel leaning over you. You wouldn't have an untrained person opening up your gut."

The law granting authority to MCOLES to regulate reserve cops went into effect Jan. 2, 2017.

But MCOLES officials say they have been

## They look like real cops, but they're not



Jack Nadwornik, owner of Tujax Tavern in Delton, had been celebrating his birthday when he was arrested by police at his bar. Police broke Nadwornik's hand, kneed him and bloodied his knees. Two of the officers were unpaid reserves. MANDI WRIGHT/DFP

deluged by other responsibilities, including doing a lengthy analysis of the work licensed cops across Michigan are performing and looking into standards for school resource officers, MCOLES Executive Director Tim Bourgeois said in a recent interview. MCOLES also has a budget that has been chopped dramatically over the years.

Bourgeois said the commission wants to set standards and rules for reserve officers, but it's unclear when that will happen.

"I think there's a feeling that the way reserves are being used is not necessarily uniform across the state," Bourgeois said. "There is no standard for training. And the responsibilities that they're given vary. And I think there's just a general belief that, based on some of the earlier media reports, that that deserves a look to see if that's an area that needs to be more closely regulated and standardized."

Bourgeois said other issues, though, have

taken precedence.

"We just simply haven't had time to get to it yet," he said.

Many other states, including Nevada and California, have rules that govern how much authority reserve officers have and how many hours of training they are required to go through before they can patrol communities.

Nationally, incidents involving reserve officers have drawn scrutiny.

A former reserve deputy in Oklahoma was convicted after a 2015 incident in which he said he confused his handgun for his Taser and fatally shot an unarmed man who was at his feet. Also this year, a California teacher who moonlighted as a reserve officer accidentally fired a gunshot inside of a high school classroom while teaching about public safety and an Indiana reserve officer was booted from the force after initiating a controversial arrest at an apartment complex

where he worked as a security guard.

Police officers are trained to make important decisions under stressful conditions and, sometimes, the choices they make are the difference between life and death. Given this, reserve officers should have to go through the same rigorous training as licensed cops, said W. Craig Hartley Jr., executive director of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a national organization that establishes standards for law enforcement.

"When they have to make a decision about arrest, shoot-don't shoot, search or seizure, they often have to make these decisions independently, even if they're operating under the direction of somebody else," Hartley said. In that kind of environment, he said, "it's almost impossible to say 'stop, let me ask somebody else what I'm going to do.'"

"Sometimes the consequences of those actions are pretty devastating."

### More than 3,000

As of late 2017, there were more than 3,000 civilians helping police forces in towns, cities and counties across Michigan.

To get a rough estimate of how many unlicensed civilians were performing police work in the state, the Free Press sent Freedom of Information Act requests to every police agency asking for rosters — a review believed to be the first of its kind.

Most agencies provided the information. Some refused, citing state laws that exempt the release of certain information about police officers. That includes the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office, which, at one time, had 85 civilian officers, according to a media report, and the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, which boasts on its website that it has a reserve deputy unit and nonprofit reserve officers foundation.

Some agencies say their reserves are used primarily for tasks like directing traffic and working security at events. But others partner reserve officers with licensed cops to do patrols, go on raids, assist on investigations and, sometimes, help make arrests.

Reserves do not have law enforcement authority unless they are paired with a licensed officer who does, officials said.

Many reserve officers have a genuine interest in serving their communities or in learning more about policing before deciding to go to an academy. The reserves that concern law enforcement professionals are the thrill seekers — who sometimes work in communities far from the ones where they live.

"People who thought it was an adventure. And were in it for the excitement," said Harvey, the former MCOLES executive director who had reserve officers years ago when he was police chief in Garden City. "That's who I didn't want."

Continued on next page



# Disorderly Conduct A Free Press investigation

Continued from previous page

## Some troubles in Michigan

Inkster reserve officer John Zieleniewski was there the night Officer William Melendez beat motorist Floyd Dent — an action that cost the city nearly \$1.4 million and landed Melendez in prison. Zieleniewski, who Inkster said is no longer an auxiliary officer, as they are called there, can be seen in the dash cam video helping Melendez yank Dent from the driver’s seat.

When Zieleniewski testified at Melendez’s trial, he admitted in testimony that he had used a racial slur in multiple text messages about the community’s black residents.

Attempts to reach Zieleniewski for comment were unsuccessful.

Over in Highland Park, which is only about 3 square miles, the police department has about 35 licensed full- and part-time officers and, as of July, had 55 reserve officers. In recent years, Highland Park had a reserve officer fire a gun into the air three times during a dispute while off duty and another had a run-in with Dearborn police while off duty and working security at a bar.

Highland Park once had its own reserve officer academy. City officials have said the program is no longer active.

Highland Park Police Chief Chester Logan, who began working for the city after the academy was shut down, confirmed the department has been investigating issues with the program.

Jervis Daniel was still on parole for a 2003 home invasion when he successfully completed Highland Park’s reserve training program in May 2014. Daniel, the certificate reads, “met all requirements as prescribed by the Highland Park Law Enforcement Training Center” to become a reserve officer. Except Daniel was a felon.

In a recent interview with the Free Press from state prison, where he is serving time for a parole violation, Daniel said he spent nearly \$700 to take the training program and thousands more on equipment and uniforms.

As a felon, he was not allowed to possess a gun. But he did as he walked the beat, responded to calls and assisted licensed cops.

Daniel said there were times when reserve officers, working on their own, handcuffed people at scenes and conducted traffic stops, then had to wait for a licensed officer to arrive.

Records show that Daniel at some point had stopped reporting to his parole agent and in August 2014 Detroit police officers knocked on his door to arrest him. During that arrest, officers discovered his Glock pistol and Highland Park police badge. Daniel told them he was a reserve, but the officers thought the badge was stolen and that he was impersonating a cop.

Daniel told authorities he had paid to attend the reserve academy and told them he had been to prison. He said the academy ran a criminal history background check and “told me that because that was some years ago that it would be OK,” according to a Michigan Department of Corrections parole violation report.

Daniel — who found himself facing a federal weapons charge last year — told the Free Press he knew he wasn’t supposed to carry a firearm but hoped that if he did a good job as a reserve officer it would someday lead to paid employment with Highland Park.

“Everything was going good and I got addicted to actually being on the force and working,” he said.

According to corrections department records, Daniel said he thought he was getting his life back on track. “I honestly thought I had an opportunity to rebuild my life and start off with a clean slate.”

## One with white supremacist ties

Twice, Barry Township, a rural community about 20 miles northwest of Battle Creek, gave John Raterink a badge and made him a reserve officer. He was a special deputy with the Barry County Sheriff’s posse for a while, too.

This, despite Raterink’s history as the former leader of an organization deemed a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

For a few years, the Free Press found, Raterink led the Michigan chapter of the national Council of Conservative Citizens, which, according to its statement of principles, opposes the “mixture of the races,” “presence of homosexuals and women in the military services” and “massive immigration of non-European and non-Western peoples into the United States.”

Raterink declined to comment last year when approached by the Free Press, telling reporters: “Talk to my chief.” He did not respond to a telephone message this month.

Barry Township Police Chief Mark Doster told the Free Press earlier this year he had been unaware of Raterink’s history with the group. But Raterink’s involvement was never a secret: County records show he certified the group as a business in 2005; once led a march through downtown Grand Rapids;

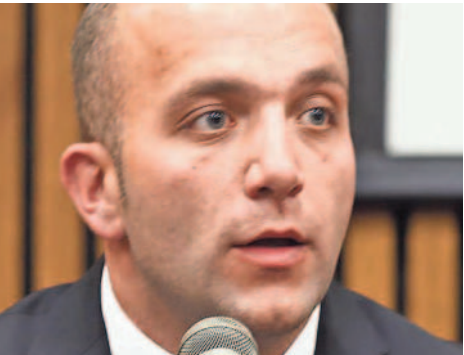
## Reserve officer controversies

There are more than 3,000 civilian officers in Michigan. Other states have them, too, and some set training standards and regulations. Michigan does not.



### Jervis Daniel

- Became a Highland Park reserve officer despite felony conviction
- Carried a gun, walked the beat and assisted licensed cops
- Records show he stopped reporting to his parole agent at some point and was arrested. Police found his gun and Highland Park badge



### John Zieleniewski

- Former Inkster Police auxiliary officer
- Partner of Officer William Melendez, who went to prison for police brutality against motorist Floyd Dent in 2015
- Admitted using racial epithets in his text messages



### Robert Bates

- Tulsa County, Oklahoma, reserve sheriff’s deputy
- Said he confused his handgun for his Taser, accidentally fatally shooting a restrained man in 2015
- Convicted of second-degree manslaughter

was written about in Michigan newspapers, and published a letter to the editor in the Kalamazoo Gazette, signing off as: “John Raterink, chairman of the Michigan Council of Conservative Citizens.”

There’s even a video on YouTube that identifies him as a man being heckled in Jackson by protesters chanting: “John is a Nazi! John is a Nazi!”

At one point, Raterink was on the national organization’s board of directors, according to the organization’s newsletter.

Records show Raterink was a member of the Barry Township reserve police officer force in 2014 when it was disbanded following outcry by residents, who questioned the training standards, the need for up to 35 reserves in a town of just 850, and the aggressive arrest of a local bar owner — an arrest Raterink helped make.

In 2014, Jack Nadwornik faced a two-year felony for resisting arrest outside Tujax Tavern, a bar he had owned for three decades.

Nadwornik had been celebrating his birthday with friends and urinated in a corner of his parking lot about 3 a.m.

Police broke Nadwornik’s hand, kneed him and bloodied his knees. Two of the three officers who arrested him were unpaid reserves. One of them was Raterink.

After much public outrage over the popular bar owner’s treatment, Nadwornik pleaded guilty to a reduced misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct. The police chief at the time resigned and the reserve force was eliminated.

Nadwornik sued and won a settlement, which he would not disclose in an interview.



### Dennis Alexander

- Was a reserve for the Sand City, Calif., police department when he accidentally fired his handgun in March during a class he was teaching on gun safety
- Bullet fired into the ceiling, debris hit and slightly injured some students
- Resigned from the police force and his teaching job at the school



### Willie Strong

- Former Flint Police reserve officer
- Since 2011, ran a fake police group that patrolled, showed up at crime scenes, handcuffed civilians and once pulled guns on teenagers who had broken into an abandoned school
- Convicted of impersonating a cop; sentenced in September to probation



### Robert Reznick

- Former police chief in Oakley, Mich., population less than 300
- Started controversial reserve force of some 150 officers, many of whom lived far away from his mid-Michigan town
- Collected donations totaling nearly \$200,000 over several years from reserves who wanted to carry a badge and gun

## “You have a person carrying a gun who can take someone’s life in the right circumstances.”

**David Harvey**  
Former executive director of MCOLES, who successfully lobbied the Legislature before his retirement to grant MCOLES the authority to set standards for reserves.

He said the reserve police force back then was out of control.

“You basically had people that were effectively untrained, driving vehicles, carrying weapons, doing what they wanted,” he said. “A lot of us had the feeling of living in an armed camp.”

Doster later took over as chief and resurrected a limited number of reserve positions on his force. One of them was Raterink.

According to Barry Township board meeting minutes, Raterink and other reserve officer candidates went through background checks and interviews and all “met the criteria to become Barry Twp. Reserve Police officers.”

The board approved.

Following a Free Press inquiry earlier this year, Raterink resigned from the reserve unit.

“He is no longer with us,” Doster said in July.

## Other states act, not Michigan

Barry Township isn’t unique in Michigan. There also was controversy in the village of Oakley, with its 300 residents and 150-member reserve force of wealthy movers and shakers; there was the reserve officer in the town of Grant, who had been writing traffic tickets he had no authority to write; and a Prairieville Township reserve officer arrested while in uniform for soliciting sex in exchange for drugs.

As the conduct of reserve officers made headlines around Michigan in recent years, MCOLES successfully pushed for legislation giving it the authority to set standards for reserve officers.

“I think it’s really important that we have a minimum level of standards when you put somebody out there representing law enforcement,” said state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, who sponsored the legislation.

But that won’t happen soon.

This puts Michigan behind other states that already have requirements for reserve officers on the books.

In 2016, a member of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training surveyed states about their regulation of reserve officers. Of 24 jurisdictions that responded, more than half reported they had state-mandated training standards for reserve officers.

California designates three levels of reserve officer, and each is regulated by the state.

Each level has required training, with a minimum of 144 hours for the lowest-level reserve. Those reserve officers, the Level III reserves, perform duties that aren’t likely to require them to physically arrest another person, including tasks like traffic control, security at parades and report writing. Level II reserves, who can perform general law enforcement but only under the immediate supervision of a regular police officer, are required to complete 333 hours of training. Level 1 reserves are required to have more than twice that amount – the same as a regular cop.

Jeff Dunn, a senior consultant and a regional manager for the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, said higher levels of reserves “have that authority to make use of force decisions and get involved in situations of a serious nature.”

In Nevada, reserve officers serve as an important crime deterrent in places like the Las Vegas Strip, where they are teamed up with certified police officers, said Tim Bunting, deputy director of the Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

He said Nevada beefed up its rules in 2002 to regulate reserve officers at the state level.

“What was going on before then, you had auxiliary, you had people called reserves, you had people called part-time, none of them had standards,” he said. “I’d give you a badge and pat you on the back and give you a gun and say, ‘Go out and do good things; don’t shoot anybody.’ ”

Nevada requires that people who want to be reserves pass a background check, a fitness test and complete 120 hours of training in subjects that include Constitutional law, probable cause, juvenile law, arrest powers, search and seizure, domestic violence, child abuse, ethics and firearms. Then there are annual requirements to meet after the original certification.

The standards are important, Bunting said, because a reserve can look just like a regular cop.

“He’s still wearing a uniform representing that agency,” he said. “In a lot of people’s eyes, they see a reserve, they see a peace officer. They don’t differentiate.”

In Michigan, some local police departments have reserve officers go through training programs like the academy David Ceci runs at Oakland Community College. He said the reserve academy there includes about 110 hours of training, covering topics like first aid, CPR, criminal investigations, firearms, hand-to-hand tactics and the mechanics of arrest.

Ceci, who serves as director of law enforcement training and interim dean of Public Services at the college, said the academy trains between 25 and 40 reserve officers a year.

“They get a taste and a touch of everything a fully sworn officer would get; it’s just not to the same scale,” he said.

Ceci, who used to run the reserve program in Lake Angelus, in northern Oakland County, said he supports regulation by MCOLES, saying it will help keep a level of professionalism and consistency in training.

Mark Boozer, a reserve for Lake Angelus and the Lapeer County Sheriff’s Office, has been doing work as a reserve for more than 30 years. He also said he supports the state setting minimum training standards for reserve officers.

“I think there should be minimums because, honestly, in a lot of cases reserves are armed and if you’re going to let somebody

Continued on next page



# Disorderly Conduct A Free Press investigation

## Number of civilian officers by agency

See how many civilians are supplementing the ranks of police agencies in communities across the state:

Agency	Location	Civilian officers	Agency	Location	Civilian officers	Agency	Location	Civilian officers	Agency	Location	Civilian officers
Adrian Police	Adrian	8	Crawford County Sheriff's Office	Grayling	5	Lake Orion Police	Lake Orion	18	Redford Township Police	Redford	10
Adrian-Township Police	Adrian	1	Dearborn Heights Police	Dearborn Heights	18	Lapeer County Sheriff's Office	Lapeer	27	Reed City Police	Reed City	3
Albion DPS	Albion	7	Dearborn Police	Dearborn	38	Lapeer Township Police	Lapeer	3	Richfield Township DPS	St Helen	16
Allegan County Sheriff's Office	Allegan	49	Delta County Sheriff's Office	Escanaba	1	Lathrup Village Police	Lathrup Village	5	Richland Police	Richland	3
Alpena County Sheriff's Office	Alpena	24	Detroit Police	Detroit	118	Leelanau County Sheriff's Office	Sutton's Bay	4	Richmond Police	Richmond	21
Antrim County Sheriff's Office	Bellaire	1	Dowagiac Police	Dowagiac	5	Lenawee County Sheriff's Office	Adrian	39	River Rouge Police	River Rouge	6
Argentine Township Police	Linden	7	Dryden Township Police	Dryden	1	Lincoln Park Police	Lincoln Park	8	Romulus Police	Romulus	2
Augusta Police	Augusta	2	Dundee Police	Dundee	6	Lincoln Township Police	Stevensville	6	Roscommon County Sheriff's Office	Roscommon	12
Baraga Police	Baraga	*	Durand Police	Durand	4	Livingston County Sheriff's Office	Howell	49	Roseville Police	Roseville	15
Baroda-Lake Township Police	Bridgman	5	Eastpointe Police	Eastpointe	26	Livonia Police	Livonia	39	Royal Oak Police	Royal Oak	17
Barry County Sheriff's Office	Hastings	54	Eaton County Sheriff's Office	Charlotte	52	Luce County Sheriff's Office	Newberry	22	Saginaw County Sheriff's Office	Saginaw	**
Barry Township Police	Delton	5	Eau Claire Police	Eau Claire	2	Ludington Police	Ludington	12	Saginaw Police	Saginaw	16
Barryton Police	Barryton	1	Elk Rapids Police	Elk Rapids	1	Mackinac County Sheriff's Office	Saint Ignace	2	Saline Police	Saline	3
Bath Township Police	Bath	1	Emmett Township DPS	Battle Creek	8	Macomb County Sheriff's Office	Mount Clemens	197	Sandusky Police	Sandusky	1
Bay City DPS	Bay City	9	Ewart Police	Ewart	4	Madison Heights Police	Madison Heights	18	Sanilac County Sheriff's Office	Sandusky	27
Beaverton Police	Beaverton	5	Ferndale Police	Ferndale	17	Manton Police	Manton	3	Sault Ste Marie Police	Sault Ste Marie	21
Belding Police	Belding	10	Flint Police	Flint	17	Marine City Police	Marine City	2	Schoolcraft Police	Schoolcraft	3
Bellaire Police	Bellaire	2	Forsyth Township Police	Gwinn	1	Mason County Sheriff's Office	Ludington	30	Scottville Police	Scottville	1
Belleville Police	Belleville	21	Frankenmuth Police	Frankenmuth	23	Mecosta County Sheriff's Office	Big Rapids	13	Shiawassee County Sheriff's Office	Corunna	21
Bellevue Police	Bellevue	6	Franklin Police	Franklin	8	Menominee County Sheriff's Office	Menominee	60	Silver Creek Township Police	Dowagiac	1
Benton Harbor Police	Benton Harbor	8	Fremont Police	Fremont	10	Menominee Police	Menominee	17	Southgate Police	Southgate	8
Benton Township Police	Benton Harbor	2	Garfield Township Police	Fife Lake	1	Metamora Township Police	Metamora	3	Springport Township Police	Springport	3
Benzie County Sheriff's Office	Beulah	4	Genesee County Sheriff's Office	Flint	33	Midland County Sheriff's Office	Midland	30	St. Clair County Sheriff's Office	Port Huron	10
Berkley DPS	Berkley	2	Gladwin County Sheriff's Office	Gladwin	5	Milan Police	Milan	8	St. Johns Police	Saint Johns	6
Berrien County Sheriff's Office	St. Joseph	49	Grand Haven DPS	Grand Haven	1	Milford Police	Milford	7	St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office	Centreville	120
Berrien-Springs-Oronoko Township Police	Berrien Springs	4	Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office	Traverse City	7	Millington Police	Millington	1	St. Joseph DPS	Saint Joseph	20
Birch Run Police	Birch Run	6	Griatiot County Sheriff's Office	Ithaca	8	Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Monroe	37	St. Louis Police	St Louis	6
Birmingham Police	Birmingham	16	Grosse Ile Township Police	Grosse Ile	8	Montcalm County Sheriff's Office	Stanton	8	Stockbridge Police	Stockbridge	1
Branch County Sheriff's Office	Coldwater	29	Grosse Pointe Farms DPS	Grosse Pointe Farms	21	Muskegon County Sheriff's Office	Muskegon	7	Sturgis Police	Sturgis	6
Breckenridge Police	Breckenridge	1	Grosse Pointe Woods DPS	Grosse Pointe Woods	14	Napoleon Township Police	Napoleon	4	Sylvan Lake Police	Sylvan Lake	5
Bridgman Police	Bridgman	4	Hamburg Township Police	Whitmore Lake	4	Nashville Police	Nashville	2	Tawas Police Authority	East Tawas	1
Brighton Police	Brighton	2	Hamtramck Police	Hamtramck	30	New Baltimore Police	Chesterfield	10	Taylor Police	Taylor	36
Bronson Police	Bronson	5	Hartford Police	Hartford	12	New Buffalo Police	New Buffalo	6	Thetford Township Police	Clio	1
Buchanan Police	Buchanan	21	Hastings Police	Hastings	9	Newaygo County Sheriff's Office	White Cloud	8	Three Oaks Police	Three Oaks	6
Cadillac Police	Cadillac	11	Hazel Park Police	Hazel Park	15	Newaygo Police	Newaygo	8	Three Rivers Police	Three Rivers	13
Calhoun County Sheriff's Office	Battle Creek	**	Highland Park DPS	Highland Park	55	Niles Police	Niles	12	Traverse City Police	Traverse City	25
Cass County Sheriff's Office	Cassopolis	31	Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office	Hillsdale	27	Northfield Township Police	Northfield Township	6	Trenton Police	Trenton	11
Cassopolis Police	Cassopolis	1	Hillsdale Police	Hillsdale	10	Northville Township DPS	Northville	**	Tuscola County Sheriff's Office	Caro	15
Center Line DPS	Center Line	23	Holland DPS	Holland	38	Oakland County Sheriff's Office	Pontiac	84	Unadilla Township Police	Gregory	4
Central Lake Police	Central Lake	3	Holly Police	Holly	4	Oakley Police	Oakley	**	Union City Police	Union City	3
Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office	Charlevoix	7	Hudson Police	Hudson	3	Oceana County Sheriff's Office	Hart	19	Van Buren County Sheriff's Office	Paw Paw	34
Chelsea Police	Chelsea	5	Huron County Sheriff's Office	Bad Axe	9	Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office	West Branch	**	Van Buren Township Police	Van Buren Township	1
Chesaning Police	Chesaning	5	Huron Township Police	New Boston	10	Olivet Police	Olivet	1	Vicksburg Police	Vicksburg	8
Chikaming Township Police	Harbert	6	Ingham County Sheriff's Office	Mason	12	Ontwa Township-Edwardsburg Police	Edwardsburg	10	Walled Lake Police	Walled Lake	9
Chippewa County Sheriff's Office	Sault Ste Marie	35	Inkster Police	Inkster	38	Oscoda County Sheriff's Office	Reed City	4	Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office	Ann Arbor	19
Clare County Sheriff's Office	Harrison	25	Ionia County Sheriff's Office	Ionia	20	Otisville Police	Mio	6	Waterford Township Police	Waterford	2
Clare Police	Clare	13	Iosco County Sheriff's Office	Tawas City	27	Otsego County Sheriff's Office	Otisville	2	Watervliet Police	Watervliet	4
Clay Township Police	Clay	12	Jackson County Sheriff's Office	Jackson	22	Ottawa County Sheriff's Office	Gaylord	11	Wayland Police	Wayland	5
Clayton Township Police	Swartz Creek	4	Jackson Police	Jackson	18	Ottawa County Sheriff's Office	West Olive	79	Wayne County Community College Police	Detroit	29
Clinton County Sheriff's Office	St Johns	34	Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office	Kalamazoo	69	Owosso Police	Owosso	2	Wayne County Sheriff's Office	Detroit	**
Coldwater Police	Coldwater	10	Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office	Kalkaska	14	Oxford Police	Oxford	13	Wayne Police	Wayne	3
Coleman Police	Coleman	5	Kalkaska DPS	Kalkaska	1	Perry Police	Perry	3	West Branch Police	West Branch	**
Coloma Township Police	Coloma	6	Keego Harbor Police	Keego Harbor	7	Pinckney Police	Pinckney	8	White Pigeon Police	White Pigeon	5
Colon Police	Colon	1	Kent County Sheriff's Office	Grand Rapids	71	Pinconning Police	Pinconning	*	Williamston Police	Williamston	14
Columbia Township Police	Brooklyn	2	Kinross Townshpice	Kincheloe	4	Portage Police	Portage	7	Wolverine Lake Police	Wolverine Lake	3
Constantine Police	Constantine	6	Laingsburg Police	Laingsburg	6	Potterville Police	Potterville	3	Woodhaven Police	Trenton	10
Corunna Police	Corunna	4	Lake Angelus Police	Lake Angelus	18	Prairieville Township Police	Delton	1	Wyandotte Police	Wyandotte	11
Covert Township Police	Covert	2	Lake County Sheriff's Office	Baldwin	26	Presque Isle County Sheriff's Office	Rogers City	1	Zeeland Police	Zeeland	9
			Lake Odessa Police	Lake Odessa	4	Quincy Police	Quincy	9			

\* No response. \*\* Denied response.

NOTES This data is based on information collected through Freedom of Information Act requests filed in 2017, though totals for some agencies were updated this year. The data represents the number of reserve and auxiliary officers, as well as other unlicensed civilians, such as members of sheriff's posses and marine and mounted units. The data does not include police agencies that reported they had no civilian officers.

SOURCE Free Press research

Continued from previous page

strap a badge on and a firearm, there should be at least some standard of training involved,” he said.

After the minimum standards are met, that’s when there should be specialty training depending on an individual’s job duties, he said. Boozer said too many requirements could be discouraging for reserve officers, who typically volunteer their time and pay for their own equipment.

Corunna Police Chief Nick Chiros said he has four reserve officers. Sometimes they ride along with licensed cops, but primarily work during events, like football games or Fourth of July festivities, which he said draw thousands of people to the city, located west of Flint, each year.

He said his reserves receive training in CPR, first aid and firearms training and learn on the job from the department’s licensed officers. Chiros said he counts on the reserve officers and worries too many training mandates might become too burdensome for the volunteers.

“You’re going to lose good people,” he said. Reserve officer Jeff Witmer, who is second-in-command over the two dozen member Taylor Auxiliary Police, said he thinks state-required training would be beneficial in Michigan.

Like some cities, Taylor already requires training for reserve officers. Witmer said his outfit puts applicants through 16 weekly classes.

“I think it’s a good thing. I mean, you can never have too much training,” Witmer said of possible state standards. “ ‘Cause you’re put on the spur of the moment when something happens and the only thing you got to fall back on is training.”

A reserve for about 17 years, Witmer, 45, was named the 2017 Taylor Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year.

“I like helping my community, where I grew up,” he said. “I like helping people. I like trying to break the barrier of kids not liking police officers. ... We’ll stop by if we see some kids playing and play with them or just talk with them. Let them play with the car ... you know, to try to break the ice so they’re not so nervous around police officers.”

### Experts: Background checks needed

Along with the training, experts said thorough background checks for reserve officers are important.

Ceci — who ran the reserve program in Lake Angelus, where the civilians primarily handle marine patrols — said before bringing on reserves, he ran their criminal histories and also did thorough background checks that included talking with neighbors and former employers, digging into driving records and doing home visits.



Maurice Davis, left, speaks for his client, Willie Strong, during Strong’s sentencing on Sept. 24 in Flint. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

“Not every agency does that,” he said, “but they really should be.”

Documents obtained by the Free Press raise questions about the quality of the investigation the Flint Police Department conducted into Willie Strong before he was named a reserve officer a couple of years ago.

Authorities said Strong, 32, ran a fake police group that patrolled, showed up at crime scenes, handcuffed civilians and once pulled guns on teenagers who had broken into an abandoned school. Strong faced a litany of charges, but recently pleaded guilty to one count of impersonating a peace officer under a plea deal. He was sentenced last month to five years of probation.

His attorney, Maurice Davis, said Strong had been running the group since 2011.

Davis said his client was concerned about arson and formed the group to fulfill a need he saw in the community. Asked for comment, Davis said Strong declined.

“He wanted to help his community, that was his main thing,” Davis said.

Strong’s involvement in running the

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group apparently did not come up when he applied in 2016 to become a reserve officer for Flint.

An officer wrote in a letter that he checked Strong’s criminal history, driving record and spoke to a former employer and three personal references. He said Strong had no criminal background, was working as a security guard and everyone spoke highly of him.

Still, the officer wrote: “I recommend Mr. Strong for the position of Reserve Officer, but with reservation due to the short amount of time available for the background investigation.”

Flint Police spokesman Detective Sgt. Tyrone Booth said he would not comment on

personnel issues. Davis said Strong was no longer with the department.

Former and current law enforcement officials say policing needs to be thought of as a profession.

“Just because you have a badge, doesn’t mean you understand law enforcement,” Leelanau County Sheriff Michael Borkovich said. His sheriff’s office doesn’t have reserve officers on the streets. He said he does have unlicensed marine deputies in the summer who went to a marine safety training school, but they are not armed. He said anyone who wants to be a law enforcement officer should go through an academy and become licensed.

Borkovich said: “This is not a hobby.”

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